



BUDGET WEEK UPDATE

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Jim Nussle, *Chairman*



309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270
Rich Meade, *Chief of Staff* • www.budget.house.gov

Volume 3, Number 15 (updated) Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

10 June 2003

Week of 9 June 2003

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) ***Supporting Responsible Fatherhood and Encouraging Greater Involvement of Fathers in the Lives of Their Children, Especially on Father's Day*** (H.Res. 66). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 2) ***Patsy Takemoto Mink Post Office Building Designation Act*** (H.R. 2030). 
This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 3) ***Cesar Chavez Post Office Redesignation Act*** (H.R. 925). 
This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 4) ***Expressing the Sense of Congress with Respect to Raising Awareness and Encouraging Prevention of Sexual Assault in the United States and Supporting the Goals and Ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month*** (S.J.Res. 8). 
This resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) ***Involuntary Bankruptcy Improvement Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1529). 
This bill requires the Federal courts to expunge any court record relating to a petition initiating involuntary bankruptcy that is found to contain false or fraudulent statements. The bill would neither increase direct spending nor reduce revenue.
- 6) ***Standards Development Organization Advancement Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1086). 
This bill provides protections from antitrust laws to nonprofit organizations that plan, develop, establish, or coordinate voluntary consensus standards for use by industry and government. To take advantage of these exemptions, these "standards development organizations" must disclose the scope and nature of their activities to the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.
- 7) ***Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives Supporting the United States in Its Efforts Within the World Trade Organization [WTO] to End the European Union's Protectionist and Discriminatory Trade Practices of the Past 5 Years Regarding Agriculture Biotechnology*** (H.Res. 252). 
This resolution has no budget implications.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

8) ***Recognizing the Sequencing of the Human Genome as One of the Most Significant Scientific Accomplishments of the Past One Hundred Years and Expressing Support for the Goals and Ideals of Human Genome Month and DNA Day*** (H.Con.Res. 110).



This resolution has no budget implications.

9) ***Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act*** (H.R. 1320).



This bill revises procedures under the National

Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act for paying for the relocation of Federal telecommunications systems that use electromagnetic spectrum to be licensed for commercial use. Specifically, the bill requires that auctions recover at least 110 percent of the estimated relocation costs. The bill simplifies the process companies use to reimburse the Government for relocation costs, and allows agencies to spend those funds without further appropriation. This causes direct spending to be higher, because this agency spending is currently subject to appropriation. The net increase in direct spending totals \$1.4 billion over the 2006-08 period, and \$2.5 billion over the next 10 years. Spectrum legislation was accommodated in the budget resolution; but the resolution also assumed certain savings in the allocation to the Energy and Commerce Committee associated with the medical malpractice bill that has already passed the House. That bill is still awaiting further action in the Senate, and its savings have not been recorded. As a result, the committee does not have room in its allocation to accommodate H.R. 1320. Therefore, the bill will cause the committee's allocation to be exceeded, and is hence subject to a point of order under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act.

10) ***Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2003*** (H.R. 2350).



This bill reauthorizes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] and related programs for the final quarter of fiscal year 2003. The House passed comprehensive reauthorization of TANF in February (H.R. 4), but the Senate has yet to act on a companion measure. H.R. 2350 increases budget authority for the TANF Program by \$64 million in fiscal year 2003, and by \$116 million from 2004 through 2013. The bill does not cause the Ways and Means Committee's allocation of budget authority to be breached in either fiscal year 2003 or the 10-year period.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Unlawful Internet Gambling Funding Prohibition Act*** (H.R. 2143).



Committee: Financial Services

Summary: This bill makes it illegal to finance online gambling transactions with credit cards, electronic fund transfers, and other sorts of bank instruments.

Cost: The bill may cause small increases in regulatory activity, and hence spending, by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration. But these Government agencies cover their expenses through premiums, so any additional direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – would be fully offset. Further, the additional expenses would be negligible.

Budget Act: This bill would not cause any violations to provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: ***Flight 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act*** (H.R. 2115).



Summary: H.R. 2115 authorizes, for 4 years, appropriations for programs administered by the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA]. These include FAA Operations; FAA Air Navigation Facilities and Equipment; the Reimbursement of Airports; and Air Carriers. Such activities

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include security screening of catering supplies, checking documents, screening persons with access to aircraft, and providing space in airports for security personnel previously used for revenue-producing purposes. The bill also reauthorizes and amends the FAA Airport Improvement Program [AIP], and extends and expands the FAA's terrorism insurance program for commercial airlines. It provides funding for Midway Island Airport, and increases spending for retirement benefits for certain FAA employees.

The AIP provides funds generally for projects that support aircraft operations, including runways, taxiways, aprons, noise abatement, land purchase, and safety, emergency, or snow removal equipment. Funds obligated for the AIP are drawn from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund

Cost: This bill increases direct spending by \$3.26 billion over the 2004-08 period. This direct spending increase largely stems from expansion of the FAA's terrorism insurance program for commercial airlines and the additional contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program. Because the spending associated with the AIP is subject to obligation limits set in appropriations acts, the outlays flowing from that contract authority is classified as discretionary. The terrorism insurance program, though, creates mandatory outlays, and is largely the cause of the \$1.4-billion increase in outlays caused by the overall bill.

The bill also increases revenue by \$3 million over the 2004-08 period

Budget Act: In the most recently agreed to budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 95), the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee was provided \$41.13 billion in new budget authority [BA] – that is amounts above and beyond the projected spending under current law. It was assumed this new BA would be used to increase spending from the Highway Trust Fund. No new budget authority (or contract authority, a form of BA) was assumed for additional mandatory spending on aviation-related programs. Under the terms of the Budget Act, committees of jurisdiction may use their new budget authority in any way they see fit; hence this bill does not violate the Budget Act because it does not exceed the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's allocation. When enacted, however, the bill will cause a reduction in the amount of budget authority that may be used to increase spending on highway-related projects.

Bill: *Class Action Fairness Act of 2003* (H.R. 1115). 

Committee: Judiciary

Summary: This bill establishes a consumer class action bill of rights, and expands the types of class-action lawsuits that would be granted original jurisdiction in Federal district courts. It sets forth procedures for sending interstate class actions to Federal district court, and for reviewing orders sending class actions to State courts. The bill also grants, to the courts of appeals, jurisdiction over appeals of Federal district court orders granting or denying class certification under specified circumstances.

Cost: The Congressional Budget Office expects that a few hundred additional cases would be heard in Federal court each year as a result of this bill, and estimates that implementing H.R. 1115 would cost about \$6 million a year. Enacting this bill would not increase direct spending or reduce revenue. Nevertheless, subsequent legislation to increase the number of district judges to support this legislation would result in direct spending, and would be scored accordingly.

Budget Act: The bill does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill: ***Taxpayer Protection and IRS Accountability Act of 2003*** (H.R. 1528). 

Committee: Ways and Means

Summary: This bill converts the penalty for an individual's underpayment of estimated tax to an interest payment on the amount of time that elapses before the appropriate payment is made. The measure also increases the safe harbor for such penalties to \$1,600. The bill extends the filing deadline for electronic filers to April 30.

The bill extends, through 30 September 2013, the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to charge taxpayers fees for certain rulings, opinion letters, and determinations, and to spend a part of those fees without further appropriation. It also allows some State-based health insurance coverage to qualify for the refundable health insurance credit.

Cost: H.R. 1528 increases revenue by \$21 million in 2003, but reduces revenue by \$289 million from 2004 through 2013. The bill also increases direct spending by \$3 million in 2003, and by \$171 million from 2004 through 2013.

Budget Act: The bill does not cause the committee's allocation to be breached in fiscal year 2003 or over the 10-year period. Also, the bill does not cause revenue to be lower than that provided for in the most recently agreed to budget resolution.